

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the application. The Office Action dated January 3, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, and 20 have been amended. Claims 4, 9-14, 18, and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 15-17, and 20 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-3, 5, and 6. The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 13 and 14 include allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejected claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-279698 to *Kubo et al.* (hereinafter "*Kubo*"). In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 3 (Related Art) in the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,491,555 to *Shanks* (hereinafter "*Shanks*"). The Office Action also rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 3 in view of *Shanks* as applied to claim 11 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,799,649 to *Schenk* (hereinafter "*Schenk*"). In addition, the Office Action rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kubo* in view of Figure 3. The Applicant has amended claim 7 to include the subject indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 7 is allowable over the cited references. Likewise, claims 8, 15-17, and 20, which depend from claim 7, are also allowable. Claims 4, 9-14, 18, and 19 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant's representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

The Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner of Patents to charge any fees necessary to complete this filing, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

Dated: June 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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